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ALP Broadcast presented by Don Dunstan Member for Norwood

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A.L.P. BROADCAST 15th JUNE, 1962

PRESENTED BY DON DUNSTAN - MEMBER FOR NORFOLK

Good Evening,

At the weekend we had an announcement that the proposal for a new administration block for the Royal Adelaide Hospital had been approved by the Public Works Standing Committee and that it was hoped that the matter would be ready for inclusion in this year's loan estimates.

Let's hope it will be. So far plans for rebuilding the Royal Adelaide Hospital have been grievously delayed, despite protest after protest from the honoraries and teaching staff, not to mention the general public.

We have fewer hospital beds in proportion to population than the other States and the Playford Government has consistently spent less per head on health and hospitals than any other State since the war. To equal the other States 1960 average of hospital beds provision we need over 1,300 extra hospital beds. To equal their average spending on hospitals in the last 10 years would cost another £7½m. in running costs alone. South Australia has the lowest number of trained medical staff to population in Australia and the lowest proportion of trained nurses.

The new East Wing of the Royal Adelaide Hospital is now, however, being occupied. We have been treated to some very glamorous pictures of it by the Government.

It is a pity that the new single bed rooms on the East side are so built that you can't shift a bed into them - the beds will have to be dismantled to get into the rooms. You can't get a barruche in nor a wheelchair, so non-walking patients will be in quite a bit of difficulty. It is also unfortunate that the lavatory doors are constructed in such a way that once a patient is in there the lavatory can't be got at from the outside, which will be unfortunate if a patient should have a seizure while inside. If they open the doors to open outwards and provide the necessary access they will open straight on-to the main corridor.

These are perhaps minor things - but they do demonstrate that the Public Buildings Department is not the last word in hospital planning and when we eventually get the Royal Adelaide Hospital rebuilt, sometime when most of us are in our dotage at the present rate, it is to be hoped that some outside architectural assistance is sought.